

CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS IN S.A.

Report by the Government Statist for the information of the Hon. the Chief Secretary.

A GENERAL VIEW of the records of the consumption of alcoholic liquors shows that during the six years, 1914-15 to 1920-21, the Drink Bill of the State nearly doubled, this being due to the substantial increases in prices, while during that period the quantity consumed per inhabitant and the convictions for drunkenness per 1,000 of population fell considerably. From 1920-21 to 1926-27, the value consumed per head has increased only slightly, but there has been a steady increase in the convictions.

Statement of Stocks of Old Season's Wheat and Flour as at 30th June 1927. **VALUES.** For the year ended June 30th 1927, the alcoholic drink bill of the State was estimated to be not less than £3,096,470 equal to 25.9.4 per inhabitant, compared with £2,978,409 or 25.7.11 per inhabitant for the previous year and £1,326,185 or 22.19.2 per inhabitant in 1914-15.

**QUANTITIES.** The 4 years prior to 1924-25 had indicated a continuous increase in the quantity of spirits consumed per inhabitant which had been counterbalanced by a continual decrease in the quantity of beer consumed, and this appears to also have been the experience of the Commonwealth as a whole. This, however, has been reversed from 1924-25. The quantities consumed per inhabitant for 1926-27, 1925-26 figures being in parentheses, were - Beer 11.27 (10.73) gallons, Spirits .32 (.34) proof gallons, compared with the year 1914-15 - Beer 12.10 gallons, Spirits .42 proof gallons. The total quantities consumed were Beer 6,382,982 (5,919,771) gallons, Spirits 178,856 (190,230) proof gallons. The consumption of wine had been estimated each year at .75 gallons per inhabitant.

**CONVICTIONS FOR DRUNKENNESS.** During the year 1926 there were 6,029 (5,795) convictions for drunkenness averaging 10.79 (10.65) convictions per 1,000 inhabitants. This is considerably higher than the previous year and has only been exceeded in the years immediately preceding the war. The year 1914 recorded 5,243 convictions averaging 11.77 per 1,000 inhabitants. These convictions include several against the same person. Distinct persons convicted were 4,504 (4,572) average 8.06 (8.40) compared with pre-war year 1914 4,073, average 9.14.

**NET REVENUE.** From Customs and Excise duties in the State for Alcoholic Beverages is given as £1,189,409 (£1,291,338) shillings.

Summarised, the following are the principal details:-

Year	Drink Bill		Gallons consumed per Inhabitant		Year	Drunkenness	
	Total	Per Inhabitant	Beer	Spirits		Con- vic- tions	Per 1,000 Inhab.
1914-15	1,326,185	2.19.2	12.30	.42	1914	5,243	11.77
1920-21	2,545,370	5.3.8	12.29	.28	1920	3,448	7.08
1924-25	2,831,973	5.5.2	10.30	.35	1924	4,961	9.37
1925-26	2,978,409	5.7.11	10.73	.34	1925	5,795	10.65
1926-27	3,096,470	5.9.4	11.27	.32	1926	6,029	10.79
Year's Increase	118.079	1.5	.54	-.02		234	.14

Statistical Office,  
Adelaide,  
16th December, 1927.

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